

January 27, 1939

C 9

THE PRODUCTION OF AN AUTOVACCINE IN VIVO

BY ELECTROCOAGULATION OF TONSILS

Albert P. Seltzer, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
In Medical Record, 148:2:65. July 20, 1938.

Advantages of Electrocoagulation

1, no hemorrhage; 2, complete extirpation of tonsils (sixty per cent poorly done); 3, absence of shock; 4, the patient is ambulatory; 5, preservation of normal structures (distorted and mutilated pillars and plicas are frequently seen in surgical procedure); 6, freedom from surgical pneumonia; 7, sterilization of tonsils in situ; 8, immediate stimulation of metabolism from the production of an autovaccine; 9, no complications.

According to Wright, a patient may be therapeutically inoculated from his own lesions by such measures as will increase the specific antigen (10).

Electrocoagulation does, if this postulation be true, and we believe it is true from the few cases studied, increases the local circulation, thereby absorbing more of the special antitoxin into the general blood stream. This method has been named by Brumm as "auto-vaccine in vivo" and it must not be confused with the autogenous vaccine in which the organisms are isolated from the patient's own lesions and made into a vaccine for subsequent injection.

From the evidence available, the conclusion appears justified, that treatment of the tonsils by electrocoagulation is preferable to surgery; not only because it can be employed in the presence of other indications which contraindicate surgery, but because by means of this method a general systemic influence is created through the production of an autovaccine in vivo. We shall present a more detailed study in the near future.